

## AT DEATH THE CORPSE

was put down about  
5 feet or if the  
ground was frozen  
laid in a log hut  
with branches piled  
over it or wrapped  
and hung in the  
fork of a tree a

dying man could  
ask to be placed  
against a willow  
backrest in a tipi  
on a hill a low  
stone wall built  
inside it the

corpse painted and  
dressed in the dead  
man's best clothes  
legs bound together  
hands crossed over  
the chest a filled  
pipe left in the  
grave some grease

the body pulled out  
of the side not the  
door of the tipi by  
a famous brave a  
braid cut from the  
dead man relatives  
slashing their arms  
and legs combing

their hair loose  
on the first night  
people come to  
eat and smoke the  
braid's put in a  
sacred bundle with  
braids of other  
dead family friends

his clothes and  
clay jars given  
away so his ghost  
won't stay with  
them his horses  
ridden by his sons  
into the tall grass

HUDSON

8/16/87

a short time since  
about 8 miles from  
pittsburgh up the  
allegheeny river at  
an indian camp the  
following strange  
thing happened a  
young warrior a  
seneca who had run  
taking the small  
pox which rages  
among them being  
much incensed at  
seeing so many of  
his brothers with  
it screamed that  
if the great man  
above dared give  
him the smallpox  
he would tomahawk  
him as he would  
a stump which he  
pointed at and to  
show how he would  
act began cutting  
the stump in a  
furious manner in  
a few minutes he  
was struck blind  
his head swelled  
to so great a size  
that his eyeballs  
burst from their  
sockets he died  
in a few hours